

XV. *On some black species of Cantharis with red heads and filiform antennæ.* By CHAS. O. WATERHOUSE.

[Read 3rd July, 1871.]

HAVING lately required a name for a species of black *Cantharis*, belonging to the group with the head red, and with filiform antennæ, I have gathered together all the specimens at my disposal, with a view of identifying them. I find among them five species, and as only one of these has been at all properly described, I have ventured to write out descriptions of them all. I have yet one or two which cannot well be placed with these five, but as the species are so close, I thought it better not to describe from single specimens.

Cantharis nepalensis, Hope.

Lytta Nepalensis, Hope, Gray's Zool. Miscel. p. 32.

Ater; capite rufo, antennis filiformibus, tibiis anticis non hirsutis; elytris apices versus latioribus.

Long. $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $11\frac{3}{4}$ lin.

Closely allied to *C. ruficeps* of Illiger, but is to be distinguished from it by the deeper red colouring, and strong punctuation of the head, and by the elytra being distinctly broader towards the apex.

The head is dull dark red, not very thickly, but somewhat strongly, punctured; the clypeus is almost entirely black, as are also the labrum and other parts of the mouth. The antennæ are filiform, very slightly pubescent; the first joint short, the second very short, the third the longest, the fourth to seventh equal, the eighth to tenth rather shorter, the eleventh a little longer than the seventh. The thorax is subquadrate (contracted in front), thickly and distinctly punctured, less closely and rather more strongly on the disc; the fore-part is slightly impressed on each side, there is a faint longitudinal line on the disc, and a deep fovea in the centre of the posterior margin. The elytra somewhat broader towards the apex, where they diverge, each rounded at the apex, the whole

surface distinctly punctured. The underside of the insect is entirely black, clothed with long black pubescence; legs simple; the anterior tibiæ not dilated, nor clothed with long hair.

Hab.—Nepal (Hardwicke). Brit. Mus.

C. hirtipes, sp. n.

Very closely allied to *C. nepalensis*, but larger and more cylindrical. The antennæ are similar. The head is dull, dark red, with long black hairs at the back, very thickly and strongly punctured, with the exception of an ovate spot at the base of each antennæ, which is smooth, impressed in the middle, and only sparingly punctured. Thorax very thickly and strongly punctured, rounded in front, clothed at the sides with long black hairs. Elytra elongate, distinctly punctured, not broader towards the apex, where they diverge, and somewhat acuminate, the extreme apex of each rounded. Underside entirely black, with moderately long pubescence; the legs simple, the four posterior tibiæ thickly clothed with somewhat long black pubescence.

Long. $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $13\frac{1}{4}$ lin.

Hab.—Allahabad (Bowring). Brit. Mus.

C. tibialis, sp. n.

Ater; capite rufo-testaceo; antennis filiformibus; tibiis anticis apicem versus latioribus [extus dense hirsutis (♂)]; elytrorum sutura marginibusque tenuissime albo-pubescentibus.

Long. 7 - $11\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

This species most closely resembles *C. ruficeps* of Illiger, but is distinguished from it by the narrow margin of white pubescence to the elytra, and by the somewhat broad and hairy anterior tibiæ in the male.

♂. The head is reddish-yellow, and (with the exception of a smooth raised spot at the base of each antenna (perhaps only a male character), somewhat sparingly and not very strongly punctured; the anterior margin of the clypeus is fuscous, as are also the labrum and other parts of the mouth. The antennæ are filiform, the third to

sixth joints each notched for the reception of the following joints: the basal two joints with longish black pubescence, the second joint is a little shorter than the first, and more slender; the third is about equal to the fourth and fifth joints together; the fourth, fifth, and sixth joints are short, of nearly equal length; the seventh to the eleventh gradually increasing. The thorax is subquadrate (abruptly contracted in front), thickly, evenly, distinctly, but not very strongly, punctured; the forepart is slightly impressed on each side, and there is a large deep fovea in the centre of the posterior margin. The elytra are scarcely broader at the apex than at the base, each elytron rounded at the apex, where they diverge; the apex and lateral margins fringed with white pubescence, the suture also very slightly so.

The mesothoracic epimera, the sides of the metathorax, and the margins of the abdominal segments, are also more or less clothed with whitish pubescence. The anterior tibiæ are thickly set on the outside with long black hair, the innerside of the anterior femora and tibiæ are clothed with yellowish pubescence.

♀. Antennæ with the third to sixth joints less strongly notched; the anterior tibiæ destitute of long black hair; the forehead without any well-defined smooth spot at the base of the antennæ.

Hab.—China. Brit. Mus.

C. assamensis, sp. n.

It is with some hesitation that I venture to give the insect which I have received with the above manuscript name, the place of a species. It differs, however, from *C. tibialis* in having the head distinctly more thickly punctured, and the mesothoracic epimera are black (♂).

Long. $11\frac{1}{4}$ lin.

Hab.—"Assam." Brit. Mus.

Two specimens (♀) from the Island Formosa, from Mr. Bowring's collection, most closely resemble the above, but appear to have the elytra relatively longer; the head more arched behind, somewhat closely punctured in front, but sparingly on the crown. The antennæ are as in the ♀ of *C. tibialis*. The underside is almost entirely black. The legs are simple, the anterior tibiæ not hirsute.

C. ruficeps, Illiger.

♀. *Lytta ruficeps*, Ill. (Wiedmann, Archiv. I. pt. 3, p. 140, 1800).

♂. *Lytta plumicornis*, Castelnau? (Hist. Nat. des Insectes, II. p. 274, 1840).

“Atra unicolor, capite solo toto rufo, antennis totis nigris, elytris obtuse acuminatis.”

♀. Totally black, except the head which is reddish-yellow; the clypeus is yellowish, with a transverse black band, the labrum has a notch in the front margin which is yellowish, the other parts of the mouth are more or less fuscous. The head is polished, sparingly but distinctly punctured. The thorax is subquadrate, slightly broader in front than behind, abruptly contracted and rounded in front, the fore-part is slightly impressed on each side, the whole surface is thickly and distinctly punctured, the disc has a lightly impressed longitudinal line, which runs into a deep fovea at the posterior margin. The elytra are parallel, not narrower at the base than at the apex, where they diverge, and are each rounded. The antennæ are four-fifths the length of the elytra, filiform, the second joint two-thirds the length of the first, the third a little longer than the first, the fourth two-thirds the length of the third; the remaining joints gradually increasing in length, and tapering. Legs simple. Tarsi beneath, spongy, fuscous. The metasternum and abdomen clothed with short grey-black pubescence.

The ♂ is rather more slender than the ♀; the antennæ are longer (very nearly as long as the elytra), the second to eighth joints furnished with long hair on the lower (or inner) side; the anterior tibiæ are furnished with long black hairs; the innerside of the femora and tibiæ clothed with golden pubescence.

Long. $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab.—Java, Borneo, Sumatra. Brit. Mus.

Good specimens of this insect appear in some lights to have a reddish-brown pubescence, but a slight alteration of the position makes it appear greyish.

The male agrees with Castelnau's description of *Lytta plumicornis* from China, and in the national collection there is a specimen labelled 'North China' which I cannot satisfactorily separate from the Javanese specimens.
